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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/083,298	05/22/1998	DAVID M CREIGHTON	PD-96065	3826

23915 7590 03/04/2004

PATENT DOCKET ADMINISTRATION
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EXAMINER

TRINH, MINH N

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3729

16

DATE MAILED: 03/04/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/083,298

Applicant(s)

CREIGHTON ET AL.

Examiner

Minh Trinh

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the corresponding address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 4-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 11 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 4-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Receipt is acknowledged of the "conditional" request for RCE application is acceptable and a RCE has been established. An action on the RCE follows.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 4-9 are objected to because of the following informalities:
 - a) "The invention" (claims 4-9, line 1) should be changed to: --the assembly--.
 - b) "w here s aid conductor a ssembly" should be: -- where said conductor assembly--. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1, 4-9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Juret et al (US 5,013,255).

As applied to claims 1 and 10, Juret et al disclose an assembly having at least one elongate conductor or terminal 32 for engaging a first electrical contact 33 on the first substrate on one end and a second electrical contact 38 on the second end (see Fig. 6), the conductor or terminal 32 being adapted to provide a spring force and for retaining the conductor in abutting with at least one of the contacts 108, the conductor

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or terminal 32 having at hook shape (see Figs 1 and 6, which shows the configuration such as at least three bend hook shapes similar to that as recited in claims 1 and 10 of present application, see abstract, lines 1-20) for providing spring force.

As applied to claims 4-5, Juret et al disclose that the conductor or terminal being fixed or constrained by a dielectric between the ends (see discussed at col. 4, lines 55-56) and that the conductor includes plurality of conductors.

As applied to claims 6-9, Juret et al disclose every limitation of these claims, including a housing w/ frame and pin 109 that associated with the assembly.

Limitation of claim 10 is also satisfied as the above discussion.

5. Claim 10 is also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yumibe et al (US 5,378,160). Yumibe et al disclose the electrical assembly as recited in claim 10 including the limitations of an elongate conductor or contact element 26 for engaging a first electrical contact on the first substrate on one end and a second electrical contact on the second end (see various related embodiment shown in Figs. 1, 5, 8, and 10 and the discussed at col. 5, lines 15-25), contact member 26 being adapted to provide a spring force and for retaining the conductor in abutting with at least one of the contacts, the contact member being configuration to form three bend hook shapes similar to that as recited in claim 10 of the present application (see the discussion at col. 6, lines 6-17) for providing spring force thereof.

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6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Prior art references are cited for their teaching of an electrical assembly having spring contact member thereof.

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Minh Trinh whose telephone number is (703) 305-2887. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday -Thursday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Vo can be reached on (703) 308-1789. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

 2/26/04
M. Trinh
Examiner Group 3729

Mt
2/26/04